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Community Garden to be Developed Using City-Owned Vacant Lots

CHICAGO - Mayor Rahm Emanuel today introduced an ordinance that would authorize the execution of a lease agreement with the Peterson Garden Project for use of a city-owned vacant lot located at 5900 North Lincoln Avenue for \$1 per year for use as an urban garden.

“The Peterson Garden Project is a volunteer organization that transforms vacant lots into urban gardens where City residents can grow fresh produce,” said Mayor Emanuel. “This project will attract residents and developers to the area by transforming a vacant lot into a green community space that will enhance the availability of healthy food choices.”

The lease allows the Peterson Garden Project to occupy the space for \$1.00 for the term of the lease. The Peterson Garden Project would be responsible for maintenance, security, and payment of all utilities. The lease expires on December 31, 2014, but may be canceled by either party with 30 days' notice.

The Peterson Garden Project is an established non-profit organization that was inspired by the many victory gardens that were created by Chicago residents during World War II. The Peterson Garden Project provides training and volunteers that assist residents in establishing gardens that provide healthy food options for families and communities.

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